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THE INTEGRATION OF RESETTLERS IN EAST GERMANY

Great changes have taken place in the structure of Germany's population, as the result of a tremendous influx of resettlers. Since the collapse of the Hitler regime in 1945, 13,910,000 ethnic Germans have migrated to Germany from the areas given in the following table.

Area	(in millions)
Eastern areas (east of the Oder-Neisse, including East Prussia)	9.15
Danzig	0.30
Poland	0.70
Czechoslovakia	3.06
Hungary	0.45
Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia	0.09
Bessarabia, Buchenwald, Dobrudja	0.16

Figures for 1946, compared with 1939, show an increase of 6.14 million (10.3 percent) in the population living within the present boundaries of Germany, increasing the density of population from 167.5 persons per square kilometer in 1939 to 184.6 in 1946. The rise in population for the German Democratic Republic alone amounts to approximately 2.1 million (14 percent), compared with 1939.

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The following table illustrates the regrouping of population in Soviet Zone Germany, by Laender:

Area	Population in 1939	Population in 1946	Increase (in %)
Brandenburg	2,413,896	2,535,697	. 5.0
Mecklenburg	1,405,403	2,148,526	52.9
Sachsen-Anhalt	3,442,047	4,162,090	20.9
Thueringen	2,430,577	2,943,251	21.1
Sachsen	5,465,200	5,543,345	1.4
Total	15,157,123	17,332,909	14.4

Mecklenburg, while showing the greatest increase in population, has the lowest density of population, with 92.5 persons per square kilometer in 1946, against 60.5 in 1939.

The occupational grouping of the resettlers is reflected in the following table:

Field of Occupation	Participation (in %)
Agriculture	29.5
Industry and hand trades	34.2
Trade and communications	12.5
Public service	18.2
Domestic service	5.6
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(No data available for liberal professions)

The above figures demonstrate that it is erroneous to assume that the majority of the resettlers are agricultural workers. Approximately 9 million (65 percent) of these persons are trained in predominantly urban occupations and trades and only about 4 million (30 percent) formerly worked in agriculture and forestry.

The resettlers have had an appreciable share in the establishment of important branches of industry in Soviet Zone Germany. Nineteen resettlers' cooperatives have been founded in Sachsen-Anhalt. In Thueringen many hollow glass processing shops were activated, and 150 costume jewelry shops have started production. Former North Bohemian textile workers have been employed in East German textile mills. Cutlers from the Nixdorf and Gross-Schoenau plants in Northern Boehmia have been settled in their trade in Land Brandenburg.

In the rural areas, in which the population increase has made itself felt most emphatically, the homework system has taken on a new significance because of the scarcity of suitable premises for shops. Homeworkers' cooperatives have been operating successfully in Mecklenburg, utilizing native raw materials (rush, reeds, sedge, wood) for the production of household goods and agricultural implements.

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Approximately 85,000 resettlers were given on an average of 8.4 hectares of land. A number of agricultural settlements were founded. Sachsen-Anhalt's model settlement, near Lebusa, Kreis Schweinitz, comprises 125 families, mainly antifascist refugees from Silesia and the Sudeten area. They placed a wooded area under cultivation and started a cooperative farm, planting chiefly medical and seasoning herbs.

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